

19-Year-Old Member of Marxist Unit 'Deprogrammed' and in Parents' Care

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Ted Patrick, known for "rescuing" young people from fundamentalist religious groups by "deprogramming" them, used his technique last week on a 19-year-old member of a radical Marxist organization.

At the request of young woman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Roeshman of Bryn Mawr, Pa., Mr. Patrick, two assistants and the parents kept her in a Philadelphia motel and allegedly persuaded her to abandon the National Caucus of Labor Committees, which she had joined two months ago.

Mr. Patrick said by telephone from his home in San Diego that it was his first experience with political conversion after several hundred religious cases. "These religious fronts and political fronts use the same techniques of destroying a person's free will," he maintained. "They just have different names."

Mr. Roeshman, speaking by telephone from an undisclosed location, said he had been "nearly destroyed" by his membership in the Marxist group, commonly called the Labor Committee.

'Zombie-Type Situation'

"I determined I wasn't going to let this thing beat me," he said. "Ted Patrick's one of the greatest men I ever met. My daughter has come around beautifully. She realizes she was mesmerized and put into a zombie-type situation by that group."

The Labor Committee, which has more than 1,000 activist members in units concentrated on the East Coast, espouses Marxist economic ideas. It also believes that the Central Intelligence Agency, the Rockefeller family, the Russian secret service and other groups are conspiring to destroy the organization.

Mr. Roeshman said he had telephoned Mr. Patrick in San Diego and asked for his help. He said he had met the "deprogrammer," who was convicted of false imprisonment last month in Denver, and forced his daughter to listen to Mr. Patrick's arguments.

'Own Free Will'

"I took just about two hours," said Mr. Patrick. "I used the same technique I use on all the rest, forcing them to use their own minds and their own free will."

Mr. Roeshman said that, after Mr. Patrick returned to California on July 19, he and his wife had taken his daughter to motels in Virginia and elsewhere. He said that his daughter had slipped a note to a bellman asking him to call the Labor Committee for help, but that they had moved to another motel.

In a brief telephone conversation, Miss Roeshman said yesterday that she was "very tired" and found it "hard being cooped up like this." Asked if she wanted to return to the Labor Committee, she replied, "I have no connection with them now."

She said she would "sort of like to get out on my own now" and leave her parents' custody. Her mother broke in to say that "The rehabilitation period is about three weeks, and this first week is the most difficult."

'Psychologically Kidnapped'

In a statement issued by the national office of the Labor Committee here, the group said of the case:

"During recent months the Federal Bureau of Investigation has attempted to incite many parents of Labor Committee members into activities along these lines. In addition, a number of members and sympathizers have been subjected to brainwashing by authorities operating under the auspices of the C.I.A.'s domestic arm, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration."

Mr. Patrick gave this analysis of Miss Roeshman's case:

"She was psychologically kidnapped by that Labor group. They use this on-the-spot hypnosis and brainwashing and mass psychology, the same as Hitler and Red China. You know the whole nation of Red China is under E.S.P. mind control."

The 44-year-old "deprogrammer," formerly a community relations consultant to Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, was sentenced on June 27 in Denver to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine on charges of false imprisonment. The case involved two young women he had helped abduct from a religious group and "deprogram." His sentence was later reduced to seven days in jail and no fine, and he has remained free pending an appeal.

He was acquitted in a similar case against him in New York last year.

He said his charges in the Roeshman case were \$1,000 for expenses for him and the two assistants.

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